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PATENT APPLICATION**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q94633

Eiichi KITAZONO, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/577,154

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned.

Confirmation No.: 1395

Examiner: Not yet assigned.

Filed: April 26, 2006

For: HYALURONIC ACID COMPOUND, HYDROGEL THEREOF AND JOINT TREATING MATERIAL

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except for the following: U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent publications; and co-pending non-provisional U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003. Also, a copy of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action

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on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations:

1. The disclosure on pages 1-2 of the present specification and the submission of an English language abstract for JP-A-2001-293081 constitutes a concise statement of relevance of JP-A-2001-293081.
2. The disclosure on page 2 of the present specification and the submission of an English language abstract for JP-A-7-97401 constitutes a concise statement of relevance of JP-A-7-97401.
3. The disclosure on page 2 of the present specification and the submission of an English language abstract for JP-A-60-130601 constitutes a concise statement of relevance of JP-A-60-130601.
4. The disclosure on page 5 of the present specification and the submission of an English language abstract for JP-A-63-123392 constitutes a concise statement of relevance of JP-A-63-123392.
5. The disclosure on page 5 of the present specification and the submission of an English language abstract for JP-A-2-234689 constitutes a concise statement of relevance of JP-A-2-234689.

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6. The indication in the International Search Report of the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office and the submission of an English language abstract for JP-A-6-72893 constitutes a concise statement of relevance of JP-A-6-72893.

7. The indication in the International Search Report of the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office and the submission of an English language abstract for JP-A-5-236951 constitutes a concise statement of relevance of JP-A-5-236951.

8. The indication in the International Search Report of the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office and the submission of an English language abstract for JP-A-2000-212204 constitutes a concise statement of relevance of JP-A-2000-212204.

9. The indication in the International Search Report of the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office and the submission of an English language abstract for JP-A-9-59303 constitutes a concise statement of relevance of JP-A-9-59303.

10. The indication in the International Search Report of the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office for JP-A-2002-529550 and the submission of corresponding international patent application WO 00/27887 constitutes a concise statement of relevance of JP-A-2002-529550.

11. The indication in the International Search Report of the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office for JP-A-11-509256 and the submission of corresponding international patent application WO 97/04012 constitutes a concise statement of relevance of JP-A-11-509256.

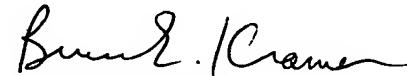
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The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 15, 2007

<p>Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO FEB 15 2007 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p>				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	10/577,154
				Confirmation Number	1395
				Filing Date	April 26, 2006
				First Named Inventor	Eiichi KITAZONO
				Art Unit	Not yet assigned.
				Examiner Name	Not yet assigned.
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	Q94633

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US 5,939,323		08-17-1999	Valentini et al.
		US 4,582,865		04-15-1986	Balazs et al.
		US 4,605,691		08-12-1986	Balazs et al.
		US 4,937,270		06-26-1990	Hamilton et al.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴			
		JP	2001-293081	A	10-23-2001	OCHI MITSUO, JAPAN TISSUE ENGINEERING:KK
		JP	7-97401	A	04-11-1995	SHISEIDO CO. LTD.
		JP	60-130601	A	07-12-1985	BIOMATRIX INC.
		JP	63-123392	A	05-27-1988	DENKI KAGAKU KOGYO KK
		JP	2-234689	A	09-17-1990	DENKI KAGAKU KOGYO KK

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		MATS BRITTBERG, M.D., ANDERS LINDAHL, M.D., PH.D., ANDERS NILSSON, M.D., PH.D., CLAES OHLSSON M.D., PH.D., OLLE ISAKSSON, M.D., PH.D., AND LARS PETERSON, M.D., PH.D., Treatment of Deep Cartilage Defects in the Knee with Autologous Chondrocyte Transplantation, The New England Journal of Medicine, October 6, 1994, volume 331, Number 14, pages 889-895	
		SHIGEYUKI WAKITANI, M.D., TATSUHIKO GOTO, M.D., STEPHEN J. PINEDA, M.D., RANDELL G. YOUNG, D.V.M., JOSEPH M. MANSOUR, PH.D., ARNOLD I. CAPLAN, PH.D. AND VICTOR M. GOLDBERG M.D., Mesenchymal Cell-Based Repair of Large, Full-Thickness Defects of Articular Cartilage, The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, Incorporated, vol. 76-A, no. 4, April 1994, pages 579-592	
		MITSUO OCHI, YUJI UCHIO, MASATOSHI TOBITA, AND MASAKAZU KURIWAKA; Current Concepts in Tissue Engineering Technique for Repair of Cartilage Defect; Artificial Organs, 25(3):172-179, Blackwell Science, Inc.	
		J. AIGNER, J. TEGELER, P. HUTZLER, D. CAMPOCCIA, A. PAVESIO, C. HAMMER, E. KASTENBAUER, A. NAUMANN, Cartilage tissue engineering with novel nonwoven structured biomaterial based on hyaluronic acid benzyl ester, J. Biomed. Mater. Res. 42, 172-181 (1998)	
		PAOLA BRUN; GIOVANNI ABATANGELO, MARCO RADICE, VALENTINA ZACCHI, DIEGO GUIDOLIN, DANIELA DAGA GORDINI, ROBERTA CORTIVO, Chondrocyte aggregation and reorganization into three-dimensional scaffolds, J. Biomed. Mater. Res. 46, 337-346 (1999)	
		LUIS A. SOLCHAGA, JUNG U. YOO, MAGNUS LUNDBERG, JAMES E. DENNIS, BARBARA A. HUIBREGTSE, VICTOR M. GOLDBERG, AND ARNOLD I. CAPLAN, Hyaluronan-based Polymers in the Treatment of Osteochondral Defects, Journal of Orthopaedic Research, 18:773-780 (2000)	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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		US			

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		Country Code ³	Number ⁴		
		JP	6-72893	A	03-15-1994 SEIKAGAKU KOGYO CO LTD
		JP	5-236951	A	09-17-1993 SEIKAGAKU KOGYO CO LTD
		JP	2000-212204	A	08-02-2000 TOKYO IKA SHIKA UNIV
		JP	9-59303	A	03-04-1997 SHISEIDO CO. LTD.
		JP	2002-529550	A	09-10-2002 AGUISITIO S.P.A.
		WO	00/27887	A2	05-18-2000 AGUISITIO S.P.A.
		JP	11-509256	A	08-17-1999 AGERUP
		WO	97/04012	A1	02-06-1997 AGERUP

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.			Translation ⁶

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